

The Chief Justice chuckled, and Senators laughed with him.

At another point, Majority Leader Lott asked how much time each side had used. The Chief Justice checked with the Parliamentarian and first announced that the House Managers had taken 54 minutes and the White House had taken 57 minutes. But then the Chief Justice said that he needed to correct himself, saying that the House managers had actually used up 64 minutes, not just 54 minutes.

House Manager Rogan, who was scheduled to speak next, inquired: I trust that doesn't mean I have to sit down, Mr. Chief Justice.

The Chief Justice quipped in response: It's not retroactive.

Mr. President, Chief Justice Rehnquist wrote many opinions with which I do not agree. He was a very conservative Justice.

But I will miss Chief Justice Rehnquist. He was a great figure of our times. We will not forget him.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On June 15, 2005, Dwan Prince was savagely beaten by three men as Prince stood outside of his apartment building in New York, NY. The apparent motivation for the attack on Prince was his sexual orientation. According to police, the three attackers shouted antigay slurs throughout the attack on Prince.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that are born out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

THE CANDY STORE FOR GUNS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I have consistently supported commonsense legislation to help stop the flow of guns to the black market. Unfortunately, the failure of Congress to act on several commonsense bills has allowed criminals and terrorists continued potential easy access to guns. In addition to endangering our families and communities here in the United States, congressional inaction may also be helping to fuel international trafficking of powerful firearms.

Earlier this year, the CBS news program "60 Minutes" aired a segment about the activities of an arms mer-

chant who legally purchased high-powered weapons here in the U.S. and smuggled them to the Kosovo Liberation Army to be used in their fight for independence from Serbia. According to him, the weapon of choice for the KLA was the .50-caliber sniper rifle.

Published reports indicate that .50-caliber sniper rifles are capable of accurately hitting a target more than 1,500 yards away with a bullet measuring a half inch in diameter. In addition, these thumb-size bullets come in armor-piercing, incendiary, and explosive varieties that can easily punch through aircraft fuselages, fuel tanks, and engines. Under current law, .50-caliber sniper rifles can be purchased by private individuals with only minimal Federal regulation. In fact, these dangerous weapons are treated the same as other long rifles including shotguns, hunting rifles, and smaller target rifles.

"60 Minutes" pointed out that this one individual made use of his easy access to .50-caliber sniper rifles and other high-powered weapons to help outfit the KLA. He said: Anything you need to run a small guerrilla army, you can buy here in America. You have all the guns you need here to fight a war.

He continued: All the rifles which U.S. soldiers use in every war, you can buy them in a gun store or a gun show.

While he would not discuss the total number of .50-caliber rifles he shipped out of the country, the author of a book about the subject estimated the number to be several hundred. The author told "60 Minutes" that on one occasion, the arms merchant and his associates hid nearly one hundred .50-caliber sniper rifles in a shipment of humanitarian aid to Albanian refugees.

For their report, "60 Minutes" also interviewed Joe Vince, a former senior official at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. He commented on our Nation's gun laws by saying: We are the candy store for guns in the world. And it's easy for people to acquire them here.

During his interview, Mr. Vince called for computerized records of gun sales that would allow law enforcement officials to look for patterns of buying activity for high-powered firearms including .50-caliber sniper rifles. This approach may be helpful for identifying the gun trafficking operations that arm criminals in our country as well as those that support militants in other parts of the world, including terrorists.

I have cosponsored the Fifty-Caliber Sniper Weapon Regulation Act introduced by Senator FEINSTEIN. This bill would reclassify .50-caliber rifles under the National Firearms Act, treating them the same as other high powered or especially lethal firearms like machine guns and sawed off shotguns. Among other things, reclassification of .50-caliber sniper rifles under the NFA would subject them to new registration requirements. Future transfers or sales of .50-caliber sniper rifles would have

to be conducted through a licensed dealer with an accompanying background check. In addition, the rifle being sold would have to be registered with Federal authorities.

We have a responsibility to those we represent as well as to other nations to help stop dangerous firearms from falling into the hands of people who seek to use them for violence. I am hopeful that the Congress will recognize the danger of inaction and pass legislation to require registration of military style firearms like the .50-caliber sniper rifle.

TAIWAN-UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENT

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, every 2 years or so, an agricultural buying mission from Taiwan visits the United States, to sign letters of intent and contracts to buy billions of dollars worth of U.S. wheat, corn, soybeans and hides. As you can well imagine, this practice has helped to guaranty an income to farmers across the country, and helped to create jobs in communities throughout this Nation.

Between 1978 and 1993, Taiwan dispatched 18 of these missions to this country. Taiwan has an active "buy American" program, which has helped to shrink our trade deficit over the years. Hopefully, this robust trading relationship between Taiwan and the United States will continue for years to come. I know for a fact that our farmers and exporters, especially from my home State of Kansas, deeply appreciate Taiwan's business.

Our friends in Taiwan have helped this country in other ways as well. Whether it is full cooperation in the global war on terror, significant monetary contributions to the Twin Towers Fund, or their recent generous pledge of \$2,000,000 in aid for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, we can always count on Taiwan to be there when we need them.

Mr. President, I rise today to thank our friends in Taiwan as they once again demonstrate their good will towards the United States through the visit of this agricultural buying mission to my State, as well as those of many of my colleagues.

COMMORATION OF THE 200TH AN- NIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF CONSTANTINO BRUMIDI

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, this is such a happy occasion and I am delighted that so many of you who know the importance of this extraordinary artist-citizen's work could join us. I want to thank Speaker HASTERT and Senator STEVENS, as well as our leaders in the Senate, Senator FRIST and Senator REID, my colleague Senator ENZI, Congressmen PASCRELL and BILIRAKIS, and of course Ambassador Boggs. It is so wonderful that we are here in this historic building, where Americans can see the best of our democracy in action. I often just shake my head and